

May 30, 2003
Q75619.APP.CWB

**APPARATUS FOR FIXING BOBBIN TO PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD
FOR USE IN TRANSFORMER**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[01] The present invention relates to a transformer used in a power supply device of a variety of electronic products, and more particularly to an apparatus for fixing a bobbin to a printed circuit board for use in a transformer, by which the transformer becomes slim in its installation height when the transformer is installed on the printed circuit board. The present invention is based on Korean Patent Application No. 2002-47137, which is incorporated herein by reference.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[02] As shown in FIG. 1, a transformer 1 is generally comprised of a bobbin 2 and an E-type core 5. Around an upper portion of the bobbin 2 is wound a coil 3, and at a lower portion of the bobbin 2 are provided a plurality of lead pins 7 connected to an end of the coil 3 and a protruding support portion 6 for supporting the lead pins 7 to space the lead pins 7 apart from a printed circuit board 4 by a predetermined distance. The core 5 is inserted into a middle of the bobbin 2 around which the coil 3 is wound.

[03] The lead pins 7 protruding downward from the bobbin 2 are inserted and soldered into fixing openings 4a formed in the printed circuit board 4 that is employed in an electronic product such as a TV, a monitor, and the like.

[04] Accordingly, when the transformer 1 operates and generates a voltage in the coil 3 wound around the upper portion of the bobbin 2, the generated voltage is supplied to the electronic product such as the TV, the monitor and the like connected to the printed circuit board 4 through the lead pins 7.

[05] The transformer 1, however, is structured in a manner that the lead pins 7 of the bobbin 2 are supported on the protruding support portion 6, while being spaced apart from the printed circuit board 4 by the predetermined distance, and thus has a problem that an installation height of the transformer 1 is higher as much as the height of the protruding support portion 6.

[06] As the installation height of the transformer 1 becomes higher, the electronic product becomes thicker. Therefore, there is a problem of inconvenience in use.

[07] In order to prevent the installation height of the transformer 1 from becoming higher, the use of a surface mount device (SMD) type transformer can be considered. However, the SMD type transformer deteriorates work efficiency and thus increases a probability of inferior product, and also has a restriction of voltage capacity and thus cannot be applied in an apparatus of high capacity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[08] The present invention has been developed in order to solve the above problems in the prior art. Accordingly, an aspect of the present invention is to provide an apparatus for fixing a bobbin to a printed circuit board for use in a transformer, by which the transformer becomes slim in its installation height when the transformer is installed on the printed circuit board.

[09] The above aspect is achieved by providing an apparatus for fixing a bobbin to a printed circuit board for use in a transformer. Around an upper portion of the bobbin is wound a coil, and a lower portion of the bobbin is provided with a plurality of pins connected to an end of the coil and connected to the printed circuit board of an electronic product. The apparatus for fixing the bobbin to the printed circuit board comprises a receiving hole formed in the printed circuit board, a size of which is minutely larger than that of the bobbin to hold the bobbin, and a horizontal support portion formed at the pins of the bobbin in parallel relation to an upper surface of the printed circuit board, for allowing the bobbin to be supported on the upper surface of the printed circuit board when the bobbin is inserted into the receiving hole.

[10] According to a preferred embodiment, the apparatus for fixing the bobbin to the printed circuit board for use in the transformer further comprises a fixing portion extending from the horizontal support portion in a perpendicular relation to the upper surface of the printed circuit board so that the pins are inserted into a fixing opening formed in the printed circuit board.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[11] The above aspect and a feature of the present invention becomes apparent by describing a preferred embodiment of the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

[12] FIG. 1 is a front view showing a conventional transformer;

[13] FIG. 2 is a side section view showing the transformer of FIG. 2; and

[14] FIG. 3 is a side section view showing a transformer employing an apparatus for fixing bobbin to a printed circuit board according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

[15] Hereinafter, an apparatus for fixing a bobbin to a printed circuit board for use in a transformer according to a non-limiting, illustrative embodiment of the present invention will be described in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[16] FIG. 3 schematically shows a transformer 10 employing an apparatus for fixing a bobbin to a printed circuit board of the present invention by way of an example.

[17] The transformer 10 includes a bobbin 12 and an E-type core 15. Around an upper portion of the bobbin 12 is wound a coil 13, and at a lower portion of the bobbin 12 are provided a plurality of lead pins 17 connected to an end of the coil 13 and connected to a printed circuit board 14 of an electronic product. The core 15 is inserted into a middle of the bobbin 12 around which the coil 13 is wound.

[18] The apparatus for fixing the bobbin 12 to the printed circuit board 14 for use in the transformer 10, includes a receiving hole 14b formed in the printed circuit board 14, a size of which is minutely larger than that of the bobbin 12, for holding the bobbin 12, and horizontal support portions 17a formed at the lead pins in a parallel relation to an upper surface 14c of the printed circuit board 14, for allowing the bobbin 12 to be supported on the upper surface 14c of the printed circuit board 14 when the bobbin 12 is inserted into the receiving holes 14b.

[19] The lead pins 17 are inserted into and soldered with fixing openings 14a formed in the printed circuit board 14 with fixing portions 17b extending from the horizontal support portions 17a in a perpendicular relation to the upper surface 14c of the printed circuit board 14.

[20] Accordingly, the bobbin 12 is inserted into the receiving hole 14b so that the horizontal support portions 17a of the lead pins 17 are supported on the upper surface 14c of the printed circuit board 14 and the fixing portions 17b of the lead pins 17 are inserted into the fixing openings 14a of the printed circuit board 14, and then the fixing portions 17b of the lead pins 17 are soldered with the printed circuit board 14, thereby completing the fixing of the bobbin 17 to the printed circuit board 14.

[21] The apparatus for fixing the bobbin 17 to the printed circuit board 14 according to the present invention can allow the transformer 10 to have an installation height that is lower than that of the conventional transformer 1 as

shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 as much as the thickness of the protruding support portion 6 and the printed circuit board 4 of the conventional transformer 1.

[22] As described above, the apparatus for fixing the bobbin 12 to the printed circuit board 14 for use in the transformer 10 of the present invention can make the installation height of the transformer installed on the printed circuit board slim, thereby decreasing a thickness of the electronic product employing the transformer 10 and thus improving convenience in use.

[23] The foregoing embodiment and advantages are merely exemplary and are not to be construed as limiting the present invention. The present teaching can be readily applied to other types of apparatuses. The description of the present invention is intended to be illustrative, and not to limit the scope of the claims. Many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. In the claims, means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover the structures described herein as performing the recited function and not only structural equivalents but also equivalent structures.